



U.S. Department of Justice

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**NEWS SUMMARY: Sheboygan Falls Resident Charged with Internet fraud in
 "Operation E-Con"**

United States Attorney, Steven M. Biskupic announced a four-count federal indictment charging Barry J. Fibiger (DOB: 1/15/68), from Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin with one-count of mail fraud and one-count of wire fraud, and two-counts of counterfeiting

The indictment alleges that Fibiger executed a scheme to defraud individuals by offering merchandise for sale on the Internet, but did not intent to ship the electronic goods to buyers. Fibiger used several websites, several different business names and bank accounts to conceal the fraud and his identity from buyers. Fibiger fraudulently obtained approximately \$40,000 from over 50 victims.

The indictment further alleges that Fibiger also manufactured counterfeit money. He used a counterfeit \$10.00 bill to pay for his meal at a McDonalds.

United States Attorney Steve M. Biskupic stated, "this case was part of a national effort to contain Internet fraud. 'Operation E-Con' is the Department of Justice's effort to crack down on cyber swindles involving activities related to online auction scams, identity theft, and business-opportunity frauds."

At a press conference on May 16, 2003, Attorney General John Ashcroft mentioned, "Internet fraud and other forms of online economic crime are among the fastest-growing crimes. The vast majority of people use the Internet for beneficial purposes. But the Internet is also used for unscrupulous and criminal activity. The activities include multi-million-dollar swindles, online auction scams, identity theft, business-opportunity frauds, and piracy of software schemes victimizing people and businesses across America and around the world.. 'Operation E-Con' sends a clear message to those trolling the Internet for victims. Illegal activities in the virtual world have real-life consequences."

Based on these charges, Fibiger faces up to 35 years in prison and fines up to \$1,000,000. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Gail J. Hoffman for prosecution.